

Applicant: Christian Knöpfle et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-12, 28-34, and 36-43 remain pending the subject application with claims 1 and 12 in independent form.

The Applicant is submitting the subject Response to clarify the recent papers that have been exchanged between the USPTO and the Applicant. On December 29, 2003, the USPTO mailed a Final Office Action to the Applicant. In response to the December 29, 2003 Final Office Action, the Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with an Amendment. This RCE and Amendment were mailed by the Applicant, via U.S. Express Mail, on March 29, 2004.

On the same day that the Applicant mailed the RCE and Amendment, the Applicant received another Final Office Action from the USPTO. This additional Final Office Action was mailed by the USPTO on March 24, 2004 and, as indicated above, was received by the Applicant on March 29, 2004. The March 24, 2004 Final Office Action is a duplicate of the December 29, 2003 Final Office Action already mailed to the Applicant by the USPTO.

The Applicant conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Philogene on April 14, 2004 in an effort to address any confusion. The Applicant informed Examiner Philogene that an RCE and Amendment were already filed in response to the December 29, 2003 Final Office Action. Due to the previous filing of the RCE, the Examiner instructed the Applicant to prepare the subject Response and to not substantively respond to the March 24, 2004 Final Office Action.

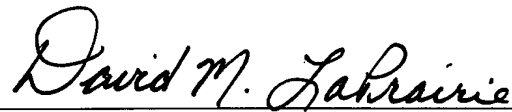
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The application is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or to credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

Date: June 24, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **Response After Final** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the **Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **June 24, 2004**.


Brenda J. Hughes